THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) According to the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability.

(b) No impact study has been conducted to determine the correlation of environmental degradation with the increase in population of persons with disabilities.

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for programmes related to the disabilities sector during the last three years is given below:

| Year | *(Rs. in crores)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 164.09 |
| 2000-2001 | 246.64 |
| 2001-2002 | 272.25 |

**Problems of autism among children**

1203. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any nodal agency to look into the problems of autism amongst children in the country;

(b) whether there is any estimate of the number of autistic people in the country;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to assist them;

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(e) the future steps and innovative measures proposed to be taken by Government to improve their status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retaradation and Multiple Disabilities has been setup by Act No. 44 of 1999 of the Parliament.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The steps being taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism include setting up of Local Level Committees to address guardianship issues, providing financial support to run day care, respite care and residential care centres, training of special teachers and home based care givers, establishment of information centres, development and dissemination of information booklets for parents and families, organizing awareness campaigns and seminars etc.

Government of India has contributed Rs. 100 crores for the corpus of the National Trust and the income from this is being utilized to implement the schemes/programmes of the Trust.

**Hostel facilities for SC/ST students in U.P.**

†1204. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether hostel facilities for SC and ST students are available in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, by when, the hostels are likely to be constructed; and

(c) the names of the hostels being run by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A list of the Government SC Hostels for Boys and for Girls, as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh is given in the Statement attached.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.